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the Latin in which they have slumbered till now. This volume, with all its apparent prolixity, is exceedingly attractive ; for the writer has not only, with the fidelity of a true antiquary, collected the memorials of the seventeenth century, but has also thoroughly vitalized them, and dramatized their action, so that we might almost seem to be reading from contemporary journals. When the remaining volumes reach us, we hope to enter more fully into the merits of the work, and such new views as it may have given of its illustrious subject.

27. — *A New History of the Conquest of Mexico, in which Las Casas's Denunciations of the Popular Historians of that War are fully vindicated.* By ROBERT ANDERSON WILSON, Counsellor at Law, Author of "Mexico and its Religion," etc. Philadelphia: James Challen and Son. 1859. 8vo. pp. 539.

WE are not yet prepared to criticise this book, unless we adopt Sydney Smith's doctrine, and regard ourselves as specially qualified to review it by not having read it. But we have read enough to see that it is a work of no ordinary ability, research, boldness, and vigor. Mr. Wilson has collected in Mexico all the materials there accessible for his use, and especially has examined the alleged monuments of Aztec civilization, which dwindle on a near approach. He pronounces Bernal Diaz a myth, and, of course, his so-called personal narrative a collection of myths. With all the fervor of an iconoclast he deals destruction among historical traditions, till now undoubted. We are not yet prepared to believe that his reading of this portion of American history will take its place as genuine ; but we reserve our opinion till we have a right to form it.

28. — *Annual Obituary Notices of Eminent Persons who have Died in the United States. For 1857.* By Hon. NATHAN CROSBY. Boston: Phillips, Sampson, & Co. 1858. pp. 432.

WE are glad to see this plan of an annual Necrology started, and under such auspices as must insure success. Of course the chief merit of such a work must be completeness, and of this no estimate can be formed without ascertaining from various sections of the country how far in each city, county, or vicinity, it gives satisfaction, or what number and kind of omissions are complained of. The quality of the notices, except in the case of some person of extended fame, must depend,

not on the editor's ability, but on the local obituaries. Wherever the present editor has the opportunity thus to distinguish himself, he shows his own skilled and graceful hand in the work, except (we believe) in the single case of Crawford the sculptor, of whom we have an admirably written memoir of nearly fourteen columns, with the signature G. S. H., — initials which our readers will not find it difficult to interpret.

29. — *History of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.*

By SAMUEL GREENE ARNOLD. Vol. I. 1636 – 1700. New York : D. Appleton & Co. 1859. 8vo. pp. 574.

WE have the promise of a review of this volume at an early date from a loyal and loving native of Rhode Island, and, in the pendency of this promise, we will only say that the volume shows a fidelity worthy of reliance, a candor that commands respect, and a skill in authorship which must give the writer a high place among American historians. When we wrote what we have about Roger Williams in our review of Dr. Palfrey's new volume, we had not read Mr. Arnold's version of the story. We find that it agrees substantially with Dr. Palfrey's, and confirms to our judgment the opinions to which we gave expression ; yet Mr. Arnold himself reaches an opposite conclusion as to the justice of Williams's banishment, by treating his disorganizing opinions as "opinions of a *purely* religious nature."

30. — *The Merchants and Bankers' Register, for the Year 1859.* New York : Published at the Office of the Bankers' Magazine. 8vo. pp. 96 and 156.

THE subject of Free Banking has of late years attracted much attention in the United States. Various States have adopted the system, and others have it under consideration. The chief purpose of this volume is to furnish information on this subject. It contains the Free (or General) banking laws of Massachusetts, New York, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin. From these data may be compiled a system containing the best features of each, rejecting those of an unsuitable nature.

The volume contains, besides, its usual annual list of the banks and private bankers of the United States, of Europe, South America, and elsewhere, and a list of standard works on banking, currency, and kindred subjects.